

SENATE BILL 1856

By Crowe

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49;  
Title 63; Title 68 and Title 71, relative to  
TennCare. This act makes appropriations for the  
fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2011.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

71-5-151.

(a)

(1) On or before January 1, 2012, the commissioner of finance and administration is directed to seek a federal waiver or waiver amendment, as appropriate, from the federal secretary of health and human services to authorize requiring adult individuals receiving medical assistance under this part through the TennCare program waiver to utilize clinics associated with local health departments as the exclusive provider of primary care under the TennCare waiver before seeking care at a hospital-based emergency room for nonemergent care, a hospital generally, or specialist care. Clinics shall be available to provide primary care services in the county of the enrollee's residence or in the region governed by any joint district health department which contains that county. The waiver shall establish standards for access to such services offered by local health departments under the waiver.

(2) Public colleges of medicine or medical schools in each grand division shall enter into agreements with local health departments within each school's

grand division in order to provide additional resources and health care providers to the local health departments for providing enhanced services under this waiver.

(3) The waiver shall be subject to all applicable orders, settlements and consent decrees entered by federal courts to the extent required by federal law.

(b) The bureau of TennCare is directed to require each managed care organization to contract on or before January 1, 2012, with all local health departments that maintain clinics that provide primary care in its service area to provide adult primary care services to TennCare enrollees.

(c) Subject to appropriations of funds, the bureau of TennCare shall provide grants and other financial assistance to local health departments for initiating or operating clinics that provide adult primary care service in order to expand the number of clinics that provide such services. Appropriations for nonrecurring costs shall be made from reserves designated for the TennCare program.

(d) For the purposes of this section, "local health department" means a county health department, a joint district health department, or a metropolitan health department with which the department of health contracts for services.

SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated a sum sufficient from reserves designated for the TennCare program to the bureau of TennCare for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.